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Wireless Devices in Sensitive Areas

1. Our ability to protect sensitive information is vital to sustaining our warfighting capability. Evolving technology and the growing use of wireless devices, however, put this information at risk. We must always protect this information from being compromised.
2. Many of us use cell phones, BlackBerries, and other types of personal electronic devices (PEDs) to maintain situational awareness. Although these devices are very helpful, there are vulnerabilities associated with their use. We must be aware of the vulnerabilities and apply appropriate operations security countermeasures to mitigate the risk.
3. Even when the user turns it off, a wireless device can be remotely turned on to eavesdrop and retransmit conversations, typically within 20 feet of the device. Because there are no external indications of active use, the user will not know that the device has been turned on.
4. To prevent the compromise of sensitive information, personnel will not carry cell phones, BlackBerries, or PEDs that contain a cell phone (wireless devices) into sensitive areas, even when they are turned off, without the approval of an intelligence community colonel, GS-14, or higher. A sensitive area is any area where classified or unclassified sensitive information is discussed. These include but are not limited to sensitive compartmented information facilities (SCIFs), offices with open storage, conference rooms, and other locations so designated by the unit commander or staff principal.
5. In accordance with the policy in Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 33, commanders and staff principals will—
 - Survey and designate the sensitive areas under their jurisdiction. Visible signs must be placed at the entrances to these areas.
 - Enforce the prohibition of cell phones, BlackBerries, and similar devices in sensitive areas.
 - Provide an appropriate storage facility near the entrances to sensitive areas to temporarily store wireless devices.
 - Take advantage of cell-phone blocker technology to protect sensitive areas as prescribed by AE Supplement 1 to AR 25-1, paragraph E-11 (Spectrum Management).

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